



**Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona**

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**PRESS RELEASE (UPDATED)**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, June 1, 2005

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**IRANIAN MAN INDICTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO  
SMUGGLE IRANIANS TO U.S. THROUGH MEXICO**

PHOENIX – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Phoenix Division, announced that Zeayadali Malhamdary, 39, of Iran but a legal permanent resident of the U.S., was arrested on May 26, 2005 and charged on May 27, 2005 for attempting to smuggle illegal aliens into the U.S. in violation of Title 8, U.S. Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii). On Tuesday, May 31, 2005, a federal grand jury returned a one count indictment against Malhamdary. His detention hearing will continue in Phoenix federal court at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, 2005 in front of Magistrate Judge Anderson.

The complaint alleges that between September 14, 2004 through May 26, 2005, Malhamdary attempted to bring illegal aliens into the U.S. for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain. The affidavit accompanying the complaint alleges that Malhamdary had previously smuggled approximately 60 Iranians into the U.S. through Mexico and that he was attempting to smuggle in three additional Iranians into the U.S. through Nogales, Ariz. using fraudulent Mexican visas.

U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton emphasized that "this is an ongoing investigation that we intend to pursue fully." Jana D. Monroe, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Phoenix Division, stated that "this is indicative of the FBI's on going effort to identify vulnerabilities to our nation's security, which includes the use of false documents to unlawfully enter our country."

A conviction for attempted alien smuggling carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

In addition to the FBI, the investigation preceding the complaint was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The prosecution is being handled by Joseph E. Koehler, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: 05-0144M  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-105(update)

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